

Rebecca Hird Fletcher Resume

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My name is Rebecca Hird Fletcher. I'm a GuriNgai and Awabakal woman and grew up on Country in Newcastle and the Central Coast of NSW. We are Saltwater mob, GuriNgai Country encompasses the Central Coast beaches and the mouth of the Deerabin (Hawkesbury River). Awabakal Country includes the Lands around the Hunter River and Lake Macquarie. Our neighbours include Darkinoong, Darug, Garigal, Woromi and Wonnarua mobs. I am proud to descend down the matrilineal line from Matora, a Walkaloo/Awabakal woman and 'wife' to Bungaree a GuriNai/Garigal man, their daughter Bourangha, her daughter Charlotte Webb, my Grandmothers, Mother and to my Children and Grandchildren.

My home is near Murwillumbah, the Land of the Murangburra peoples of the Yugumbah Nation. I travel weekly to Meanjin to spend time with the children in the detention centres, Community and professional connections, and regularly visit my family, mob and Country in Mulubinba and Warrane.

I pay my respects to these Lands, their Spirits and Traditional Custodians - the Ancestors, Elders, peoples and the Children of today and tomorrow.

Education

I am currently enrolled in a PhD at RMIT University.

Enrolled - Professional Certificate in Indigenous Research (PCIR)

Educational Institution – Melbourne University

Date - 2023

Qualification - Masters in Public Health (MPH)

Educational Institution - The University of Sydney

Date - 2019 - 2021.

Qualification - Graduate Diploma in Indigenous Health Promotion (GDIHP)

Educational Institution - The University of Sydney

Date – 2018

Employment History

Date – March 6, 2023 – current

Employer – RMIT University

Position – Vice Chancellor Indigenous Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow

My current role allows me to pursue my PhD with the RMIT STEM School, ‘Understanding the Needs of First Nations Children who Experience Detention in Southern Queensland’, while participating and learning about teaching practice within the RMIT university setting.

Date – February 2023 – current

Employer – Volunteer

Position – ‘Cultural Art Yarning Circles’ – The Cultural Art Yarning Circles developed through my engagement with the young peoples at Brisbane Youth Detention Centre and West Moreton Youth Detention Centre and Yiliyapinya. They began as polymer clay making circles and have developed into a cultural and therapeutic experience through a natural collaborative process with the young peoples. The art circles appear to provide a Cultural and therapeutic benefit for the young peoples. I am currently being mentored in Cultural Art practice by Uncle Greg Duncan (Wakka Wakka/Kuku Yulanji).

Date – May 2021 – February 2023

Employer – The University of Queensland

Project – IMHIP-Youth

Position – Research Fellow (Qualitative)

As a Research Fellow with the IMHIP-Youth project I played a pivotal role in the on-the-ground research component through yarning with young First Nations peoples in the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre and West Moreton Youth Detention Centre in Southern Queensland. One of the outcomes of the project included the development and publishing of a booklet, 'Dreams and Visions', which was named and co-designed by the young peoples and represents the main themes revealed in the yarns. Another outcome included contributing to the design and co-development of a Social and Emotional Wellbeing measure for young First Nations peoples. Other components of this role included designing and developing the project website, creating short films of interviews with project stakeholders and participating in ongoing community engagement and consultation. [Home \(imhip-youth.org\)](http://imhip-youth.org)

Date - December 2020

Employer - The Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance Use
The University of Sydney

Project - 'Cracks in the Ice'

Role - Casual Research Assistant

The 'Cracks in the Ice' project aimed to develop resources to prevent methamphetamine related harms in the First communities and to develop a culturally appropriate central online hub for resources, programs and information. My role in this project was to interview First Nations peoples who use methamphetamine, were in recovery, or who were a family member of a loved one who uses methamphetamine. These interviews informed the First Nations resources for the 'Cracks in the Ice' website. [Resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander \(cracksintheice.org.au\)](http://cracksintheice.org.au)

Date – 2008 – 2019

Employment History – During these years my employment experience included working in residential care in Melbourne and the Northern Rivers, NSW, supporting people with high needs and challenging behaviours. I also participated and created in the arts and theatre community and raised my 5, now adult, children.